

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2001 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 67

I. Project Title: Steamboat Lake Water Lease

II. Principal Investigator:
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III. Project Summary:

In 1992, the Recovery Program identified a need to secure storage water in the Yampa River Basin for late summer flow augmentation. Colorado Division of Parks (Parks) secured a change of the water right decree for Steamboat Lake in 1997, which recognized the use of water for instream flows. With the change decree in place, the last obstacle to leasing water from Steamboat Lake was surmounted, and a lease was executed on April 17, 1997, between Parks, Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). A lease price of \$16.00 per acre-foot for 2,000 acre-feet of water was negotiated for the 5-year term of the lease. During late summer of 2000, flows in the Yampa were monitored closely and when flows dropped to near Service flow recommendations, Parks was notified on August 24, 2001, to begin releasing water from Steamboat Lake at the rate of 25 cfs. The lease was funded in 2001 by funds held at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial year - 1997, Final year - 2001.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Yampa River Action Plan I.B.2.a.(1)(b)
Lease 3,300 acre-feet to augment later summer flows.

VI. Accomplishments of FY 2001 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

The late summer flows in the Yampa were monitored closely and when flows dropped significantly and on August 24, 2001, Parks was notified to begin releasing water from Steamboat Lake at the rate of 25 cfs. The lease of water from Steamboat Lake is useful in helping to stabilize late summer flows in the Yampa River to maintain habitat for Colorado pikeminnow. The release of water was monitored by the Division Engineer, Parks, and Service.

2001 release schedule: 8/24/2001–10/6/2001 25 cfs 2,000 acre-feet

VII. Recommendations:

The Service/Recovery Program is building the continuation of this lease into the Yampa

River Management Plan, and has implemented procedures to call for the leased water when Yampa River flows are anticipated to drop below 93 cfs at the Maybell.

VIII. Project Status:

Ongoing, the 1997 to 2001 is being renegotiated as a 10 year contract with an option to renew for an additional 10 years. The negotiation process should be completed by the February 2002 meeting of the Parks Board..

IX. FY 2001 Budget Status:

A. Funds Provided:	\$32,000	
B. Funds Expended:	<u>\$32,000</u>	
C. Difference:	\$ 0	All funds were expended in 2001.

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable

XI. Signed:	<u>George Smith</u>	<u>December 10, 2001</u>
	Principal Investigator	Date